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ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

SUNDAY, - - - DECEMBER 19.

There is a circular out, signed by Dun & Co.—which is a good name for bankers who seek the boodle of poor speculators.

It is believed that the conference on the electoral-count bill have agreed, and that the bill will be reported favorably at once.

Colonel Watterson has caught an inspiration from the Star-eyed Goddess to the effect that Cleveland will be nominated, but cannot be elected unless he makes himself a "thorough Democrat."

Joe Woods (colored) and Anna Nicodemus (white) were sent to their respective dungeon cells in Maryland this week for marrying, which is a good lesson to teach the depraved that decency must be maintained and no horrible miscegenation allowed. The defence tried the Fifteenth amendment, but it did not work.

Some Southern members of Congress, among whom were Cabell, O'Ferrall, Wise, Daniel, Barbour, and Croxton, held a meeting to discuss the abolition of the tobacco tax and tax on fruit brandy. They did not think that the tax on whisky could be reduced. Two committees were appointed to push the ideas of the conference.

People who think they could conduct a newspaper are always asking why we do not do something that is the very thing not to do. To all such we have simply to say that our stockholders and the editor are well enough known in the community to be the guarantee of an honest and straightforward policy in all public affairs that a newspaper treats of; and if we do not choose blindly to follow a party it is because in the long run, in fact all the time, the best rule is to command respect first and let the popularity come afterwards.

We publish a daily bulletin of the news, with an unprejudiced and honest comment on the facts, and this is the fundamental law of journalism.

Look at the business and circulation of our "Little Daisy" and you will see that we are right, and then send in your name.

We have several times outlined the principal features of the inter-State commerce bill, hoping that, having been drafted by a conference out of material of the two bills respectively of Messrs. Cullom and Reagan, it would be acceptable to both Houses; but there promises to be a violent and bitter struggle over the long and short-haul clauses and the prohibition of pooling. Practical railroad men who do not object to Government supervision or to any practicable regulation insist that not only the railroad interests, but the business interests and the interests of producers and consumers alike, justify the practice of the railroads in taking commodities from many distant points to the seaboard at lower rates than they can afford to make for much of their shorter distance traffic. The bill provides that the commission may, on application of the railroads and after investigation, give relief from the operation of the rule in special cases; but this would leave the prohibition in force except where relief was thus obtained.

WHAT DOES REPUDIATION MEAN?

The politicians ought to open their eyes to the great principle in politics that there comes a time when the masses of the people ought to be instructed on facts and shown the right way, instead of being persuaded by the excitement of prejudice or appealed to on the ideas of popular feeling.

The popular feeling of the State is thought to be against paying the debt because the "enemies of the State," as the creditors are called by some, do not choose to accept a settlement according to an act which leaves out the mass of coupons pronounced valid money for taxes by the United States courts.

Of course the creditors do not intend to give up the coupons, and of course people cannot be bullied out of using them, for human nature does not go quite so far in sentiment as to pay a premium of fifty per cent. on it in paying their taxes. Or, in other words, the people will not long support the folly of party leaders out of their own pockets.

The men who organized the shallow devices for beating the creditors would have done better to spend their official time on a common sense plan to settle with the creditors, whereby the reputation of the State might have been saved and the officials perhaps kept in office instead of being voted failures like the Riddleberger bill, the offspring of Mahoneism and adopted bantling of the Democracy. It may be attired in finery and certified as genuine by a hundred thousand witnesses, but all the same its paternity shows more and more strongly with its growth, and nothing will make it anything but bogus and illegitimate.

We do not know what the bondholders intend to do, but it is certain that those coupons will be tendered for taxes, and this brings the people to the fact that the Riddleberger bill will not work.

Now, what does repudiation mean?

Nothing.
It would apply to a debt not due for over twenty years. You cannot kill it, because were you to put it under the ground it would still be bearing a luxuriant crop of interest all the time, that would sprout just as if it were above ground.

Repudiators, answer that.

NEGRO KNIGHTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The colored Ku-Klux and the colored Knights in South Carolina have caused general alarm.

The Press and Reporter had such a letter on the subject of the organization that the subject has been generally discussed, and the Legislature has passed a bill to organize the militia more thoroughly, and the following bill relating to conspiracy has been favorably reported:

"It shall be deemed a conspiracy and shall be a misdemeanor for any persons united, organized, associated, or banded together to interfere by threats, force, or in any other way with any contract between any employer or employee, whether such contract be verbal or in writing, or to permit any person for them or in their name or on behalf of such union, association, organization, or band to interfere with any employer or employee, whether the contract between them be verbal or in writing, for wages or for any other consideration, to prevent the execution of such contract; and each and every one convicted of the offence shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months, or fined not less than \$200, or both fined or imprisoned, in the discretion of the court. Each one of such contracts interfered with as above prescribed shall constitute a separate and distinct offence."

REFORM IN THE NAVY.

Besides the big plan of reorganizing the navy, and having ships of war built to take the place of the old hulks that furnished John Roach and Bill Chandler with jobs for repairing, the Secretary of the Navy proposes to change the establishment of the navy-yards and devote them to certain specific departments. The yard at Boston has been converted into an equipment-yard, the Washington yard into an ordnance magazine, and several others turned over to various bureaus.

Admiral Porter outlines the policy as follows:

"I think the opinion is general throughout the service that until the department is reorganized we can have no system, maintain no proper discipline, and build no effective ships, but that a reorganization of the department will bring order out of chaos, and the navy will run along as smoothly as it did previous to 1842, when the Board of Navy Commissioners were the advisers of the Secretary of the Navy and had administrative and executive authority."

A very bad wreck occurred on the Illinois Central road near Baileyville, Ill. A freight train that left Forrest collided with an extra freight that left Freeport with a double-header. Three engine and twenty-one cars were demolished. Loss, \$30,000.

The World claims that in New York city there are thirty millions worth of property belonging to corporations untaxed, including a gaslight company undervalued by \$12,000,000, street-car companies undervalued \$16,000,000, and Jake Sharp's line \$3,000,000.

The Amsterdam Democrat professes to publish the grips and signs of the KNIGHTS OF LABOR. Oh, if they had seen the manual of acrobatic signs used by Mahone's INNER CIRCLE—"The Mule Signal," the "Deputy Prevaricator's" grip, and the "Shyster's Wink," "Coon Sign," &c.!

The vote in the Senate for the repeal of the tenure of office act was 30 to 22, and doubtless the House will act to repeal, and thereby restore what Senator Edmunds calls the "Kingly Power" of a President, which is only a restoration of the privilege Presidents before Andrew Jackson.

SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

Wilmington, Del., did a very handsome thing by a light opera company the other day whose baggage was attached for \$300. The newspapers got up a benefit for them, all the attaches of the theatre down to the gas-men and scene-shifters volunteered, the citizens all came, and the company paid their debts and the gay warblers went on their way rejoicing. So much for having a good show; when theatrical ventures fail it is because of some "snide" feature.

We deny that there was any duel with swords in a Chicago park; and as for the long anecdote about the quarrel being on account of a lady's hand, it is certain that Chicago gentlemen have too much sense to get mad with each other about the size of the foot. For, what says the song?

"My darling is a daisy,
She wears a No. 3;
By the moon's pale light,
On Sunday night,
We meet by the chestnut tree."

Our accomplished and handsome friend, Colonel Ned Johnson, appeared in the city yesterday like a transit of the Musical Apollo, the ever-welcome herald of the "Boston Ideals," whose fair warblers will among gather on the horizon like a galaxy of stars "gathering in the Southern night." If they will sing the "Black Mantels" as they did before, they can have all the boom we can help to give; besides which we will publish Colonel Johnson's portrait and a sketch of his brilliant career as journalist and impresario.

THE POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION.

[From the Index-Appal.]

But the Republican no more than the Democratic doctors give any plan of action which promises efficient obstruction to the incoming of coupons, or suggest any feasible method of satisfying, or of evading, the dictum of the courts. To repeal all the statutes amending the acts of 1882, is the prescription of Mr. Pendleton, endorsed by Senator Riddleberger, and presumably by Mr. Elam. The theory here is that those acts had been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, and that the subsequent adverse decisions of the ultimate tribunal were based on enactments which altered the legal issues. This is a great mistake. The decisions under which taxpayers are now forcing the collecting officers to receive coupons, or under which they are standing harmless upon the tender of coupons, apply to and arise under the exact original terms of coupon-killer No. 1. No alteration has been made in that statute or all affecting its underlying principles. The whole intent and effect of that was to force each individual taxpayer to bring into court for verification, as genuine, the coupons with which he claimed the right to discharge his dues to the State. The Supreme Court of the United States in the first case (Antoni vs. Greenhow) adjudicated held this requirement to be reasonable and the act embodying it to be constitutional. The majority of the court declared that the act did not attack nor abolish the obligation of the contract, but simply altered the remedy of the claimant when seeking to enforce it. Now in this particular the debt legislation remains unchanged; but the more recent adjudication of the matter by the Federal courts has resulted in giving the taxpayer the right denied to him in the first case of Antoni vs. Greenhow. That is, he can now make tender of coupons for taxes without going before the State courts for verification of their genuineness; and being refused he can hold the collector for trespass if his property is levied on to compel payment in money. No amount of repeal will affect this state of affairs, for it is coupon-killer No. 1 itself which has been made null by the Federal courts.

Of the Readjuster leaders, other than those mentioned, General Mahone has made no utterance on this subject; nor has ex-Governor Cameron been heard from.

Fourteen people were arrested in St. Louis, charged with frauds in the recent elections.

The New Orleans police prevented a duel between Colonel Louis Arnault, chief clerk in the office of collector of customs, and Mr. Edgar Hincks, secretary of the Louisiana Oil Company—two leading Creoles.

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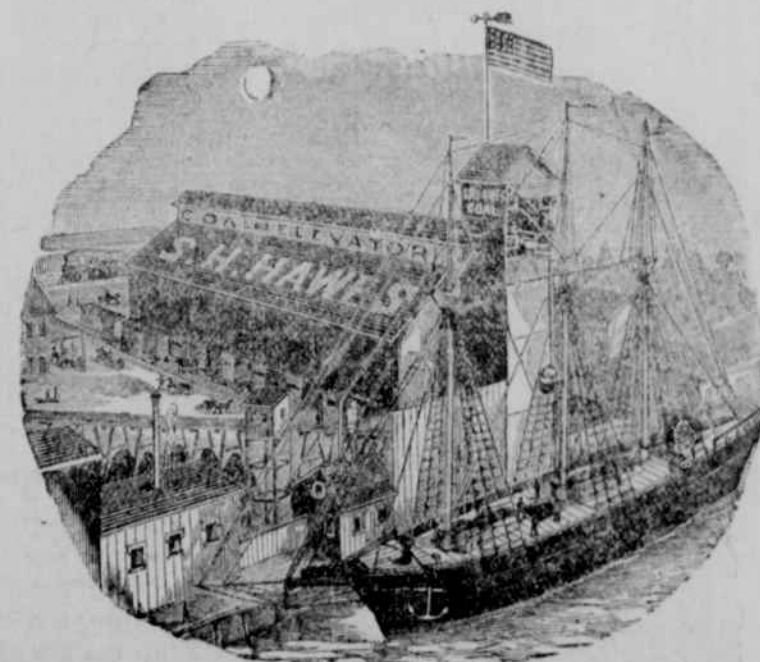
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